

Re Point I.**!AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 FEB 2006****Basis for the report****Description:****Pages:** 1-4 original version**Patent claims:****No.:** 1-4 original version**Drawing(s):****Sheet:** 1/2-2/2 original version**Re Point V.**

- 1 The present report makes reference to the following documents:

D1: US 4 040 715 A (DEBAIGT JEAN) 9 August 1977 (1977-08-09)

- 2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

The present application does not meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) because the subject matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3).

Document D1 is regarded as the closest prior art over the subject matter of claim 1. It discloses (the references in parentheses relate to this document):

A preassembled component comprising a holder (14) and a screw-with-washer assembly (6) which is held by said holder (14) and forms, together with a connection piece (4), a clamping point for a conductor connection by means of a ring terminal (8), it being possible for the holder to be moved between an open and a closed state of the clamping point, and said holder having a spring element (9) applied to it which holds it in the open state when the clamping point is released.

The subject matter of claim 1 therefore differs from that known from D1 by the fact that

the use of said component in a switching device is not explicitly disclosed.

The problem addressed by the present invention can therefore be considered that of providing a switching device having a connection terminal apparatus.

The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application cannot be regarded as inventive for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)):

The feature "switching device for the connection of a conductor by means of a ring terminal which has a preassembled component" is only one of several obvious possibilities from which a person skilled in the art would choose according to circumstances in order to solve the problem of interest, without thereby being inventive.

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-4

Claims 2-4 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer back, meet the PCT requirements for inventive step.

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